objection has not been a sound proposition and might have caused some loss to the interest of the Board.

(d) The Punjab Wakf Board reviewed the matter in early 1997 and it was decided that no objection certificate for construction will not be issued in case of 11 months' lease and this practice has been completely stopped after 31st March, 1997. Every possible effort is being made by the punjab Wakf Board to ensure that the leasing out of Wakf properties is in consonance with the provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995 and action is also being taken against the lessees who have raised unauthorized constructions by issuing notices under the provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995.

Policy to protect Elders

883. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to protect elder persons igainst domestic violence, grs "'lief, conns-ions on medical expi and other reliefs for the old aged; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the

steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A National Policy for order Persona *a a*nder consideration of the Govesnmeai which shall be formalised based upon and subject to consultations with State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Ministries of the Central Government and experts in the field. The Policy is amongst others expected to address issues re'ating to income security, health care, housing, security, and other needs of older persons.

Complaints Against Officials of PWB

884. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against certain officials of Punjab Wakf Board who have amassed wealth by leasing the Wakf properties;

(b) if so, whether Government have instituted any enquiry; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider entrusting the inquiry to the CBI as crores of rupees properties have been misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The complaints have been referred to the Vigilance Section of the Ministry for investigation.

(c) Does not arise.

Schemes unproved for backward and downtrodden people In Gujerat

885. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be

(a) the name of the schmes which have so far been approved by Government for the development of backwards and downtrodden people in Gujarat with details;

(b) the allocation of central fund for each scheme;

(c) the number of people benefited with the schemes,

(d) whether the State Government has requested for additional funds for the schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thei

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The